

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 FEAE-00 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03

H-02 /102 W

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R 021330Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S PRESS INTERVIEW

1. PRINCIPAL PORTIONS OF SHAH'S MID-FEBRUARY INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE'S JACQUELINE GRAPIN (RELEASED TODAY) BEING SENT DEPARTMENT BY USINFO CABLE. MAIN POINTS ARE: (A) IRANIAN BUDGET DEFICIT ENTIRELY DUE TO FAILURE OF OIL-BUYING COUNTRIES TO ADHERE TO TERMS OF THEIR "CONTRACTS", (B) UNITED STATES IS PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN PARIS CONFERENCE ON NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, AND (C) IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE SERIOUSLY CUT BACK, ONLY STRETCHED OUT AND ADJUSTED AS A RESULT OF NEED FOR DEFICIT FINANCING. SHAH NOTED IN PASSING THAT U.S. DESTROYERS HAD TREBBLED IN PRICE SINCE THEY WERE ORDERED AND THAT U.S. HUDSON INSTITUTE WAS COLLUDING WITH OIL COMPANIES WHEN ITS 1975 REPORT ON IRAN PREDICTED IRAN WOULD HAVE BUDGET DEFICIT THIS YEAR.

2. BACKGROUND ON INTERVIEW DEVELOPED FROM GOI AND NEWSPAPER SOURCES IS THAT DURING FIRST SIX WEEKS OF 1976 SHAH BECAME REALLY ANNOYED BY CONSTANT SUGGESTIONS THAT IRAN'S BOOM WAS OVER AND USED GRAPIN INTERVIEW AS WAY OF EXPRES-
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SING DISPLEASURE. DECISION TO RELEASE INTERVIEW ON EVE OF

FIRST U.S.-IRAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL AND FINANCIAL
CONFERENCE WAS DELIBERATE AND IS CONSIDERED USEFUL
REMINDER TO HIGH-LEVEL U.S. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL LEADERS
THAT IRAN IS THROUGH BEING HUSTLED BY ECONOMIC CARPETBAGGERS,
AS GOI SOURCE PUT IT.
MIKLOS

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NNN

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